AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving information about a patient record;

in response to receiving the information about the patient record, performing a search through one or more databases of records for one or more matching records that match the patient record;

for each of the one or more matching records that are found through the search, creating an unconfirmed link between that matching record and the patient record; and

in response to input from a user regarding a selected record that is from the group consisting of said patient record and the one or more matching records, converting the unconfirmed link for the selected record to a directional confirmed link identifying which of the selected record and the linked record identified by the unconfirmed link for the selected record is a leader record, wherein the leader record among two linked records is the record among the two linked records that is at least one of most current, most correct, and most proper, wherein receiving information, performing the search, creating unconfirmed links, and converting unconfirmed links is performed by a computer system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information about the patient record is information that is to be stored in a new patient record.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein performing the search through one or more databases for one or more matching records that match the patient record is based on real world primary key information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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receiving search criteria from the user;

performing a search for records that match to the search criteria;

displaying a list of records that match the search criteria;

receiving user input choosing one of the records from the list of records, wherein the chosen record is said selected record; and

receiving user input specifying confirmation information for the unconfirmed link of the selected record.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising in response to receiving further input at a later time changing the directional confirmed link to a certified link.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein performing the search through one or more databases of records comprises using real world primary key information from the patient record to identify the one or more matching records.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the real world primary key information includes any of a first name, a last name, a social security number, a gender, and a date of birth for a patient.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information about a patient record involves receiving information for creating a new record for a patient.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the record among the two linked records to which the leader record is linked is a trailer and wherein converting the unconfirmed link to a directional confirmed link comprises modifying the leader record based on information in the trailer record.